

Diet composition and feeding habits of *Acetes japonicus* (Decapoda: Sergestidae) in estuarine waters of Tanjung Dawai, Kedah, Malaysia

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Abstract

This study describes the diet composition and feeding habits of sergestid shrimps *Acetes japonicas*. The stomach contents of 330 specimens, captured from the Estuary of Tanjung Dawai, Kedah from June 2008 - May 2009 were analysed. Analysis on the percentage of numerical abundance (C_i) showed that plant matter (28.18%) and crustacean appendages (18.70%) as the two highest values amongst the eight categories of feeding items. In addition, percentage frequency of occurrence (F_{pi}) values of phytoplankton, zooplankton, algae, plant matter, appendages of crustacean, debris, unidentified items and sand-mud were 3.54%, 7.05%, 5.07%, 27.44%, 17.42%, 15.80%, 8.94% and 19.81% respectively. Based on the food composition found in the stomach, it could be concluded that *A. japonicus* is a bottom feeder omnivorous.

Keywords: *Acetes japonicas*, stomach contents, Malaysia.

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